

German Repulse Beyond Kemmel Brilliant Allied Victory

**Sanguinary Defeat at
Schierpenberg Completely Dislocated
Enemy's Plans**

**Foch Conducting
A "Sale of Ground"**

**Germans Already Have
Paid 350,000 Men
for Relatively
Slight Gains**

By HILAIRE BELLOC
*Author of "Elements of the Great
War" and Britain's Most Distinguished
Military Critic.*

IT is one of the difficulties in following a great military campaign in written articles that the part which is played by the army on the defensive is always difficult to explain. It is so true that it is safe to say that the public's interest always lies with offensive action, and that even when that action is futile it can be more easily aroused by it than by a success of the most brilliant kind which is effected by the defensive forces. And yet, perhaps, three-quarters of the decisive battles and campaigns of history have depended for their success upon some longish defensive phase before their close.

The Allies in France and Flanders are at this moment fighting a defensive action which they hope is the prelude to a success. They are fighting a series of battles, the place, the time and intensity of which are decided by the enemy, who has the initiative and who attacks when, where and in what strength he pleases. The whole future of the war depends upon the skill with which the higher command of the Allied side fixes the exact limits of the time of action, the space of ground surrendered and the expense of men endured in their defensive.

But it is exceedingly difficult to give a popular general conception of these vital factors. The most brilliant defensive action is nothing more than a block, a calculated "sale of ground," and a defensive campaign is, after all, a retirement.

**Brilliant Piece
Of Work at Kemmel**

At any rate, one of the most brilliant pieces of defensive work in this or any other campaign of which we know was performed on Monday, April 29, and should be carefully studied and apart from the great strategy of the West front campaign as a technical example of the successful performance of the task which the Allies now have to undertake.

It was the largest local action which the enemy had attempted for six weeks—since his advance was brought to a stop before Amiens. It was pushed with extreme vigor and at a corresponding expense of life to him. It completely failed, and this failure was followed by five full days in which he was unable to move because of the blow which had shaken his local organization.

**Struck to Win
Range of Hills**

The details of the action were as follows:

After the capture of Mount Kemmel the enemy was faced by the remainder of the range of hills, which were grouped immediately opposite him beyond the low saddle in the ridge (the group including the lower what isolated Mont Rouge, the lower Schierpenberg beyond it and at the western extremity of the range of Mont des Chats). If he could seize the whole of the range quickly the enemy might make the holding of the Ypres salient impossible. That salient has no strategic value in itself, but the rapid evacuation of it by the British forces would certainly be expensive and might be locally disastrous. Moreover, when once such a movement had begun under such pressure as the German was prepared to exert, one could not know where it might stop, short of the line of the Aa River.

It was with the object of seizing these remaining hills, therefore, that thirteen German divisions were drawn up for attack upon a sector of only ten miles, stretching from the village of Meteren to the Ypres Canal. The Allied line awaiting the attack in this attack ran in a direction a little north of east from Meteren on its extreme right or western end, through Loere and Voormezele to the Ypres Canal and beyond on the extreme left or eastern end. The little village of Meteren is in the plain south of the hills, or rather on a little foothill at their base.

The forces opposed were roughly less than two Germans to one Allied soldier, for it is always the object of a defensive to maintain its position with a minimum possible loss

of men and therefore with its hovering screen of troops at the smallest possible limit.

The preliminary bombardment was more intense than any which had preceded it in this offensive, and a very large proportion of the shells thrown were gas shells. Both these features—the increasing intensity of the bombardment and the increasing proportion of gas shells used—have been noted in the last few actions in Flanders. The use of gas, in fact, was so intense and continuous that most of the defending forces lived and slept in their gas masks for the better part of two days.

Thirteen German attacking divisions, eleven of which have been identified (including the 4th Bavarian, the 23d Alpine Corps, the 7th, 55th and 49th Reserve and the 56th and 3d Guard Corps), were organized under two corps commanders and were launched to the attack shortly after daybreak in a dense mist. The first shock produced two temporary German successes.

By one of these the British were pushed out of Voormezele, but the attack was held up by the wood to the west of that village, which the Germans failed to take. The effect upon the battle of this partial and shallow advance was not great.

**Thrust Endangered
Whole Allied Line**

But the other German success was of more value and might have had great results. It was conducted probably by the Alpine Corps already mentioned, acting with the Bavarians. It carried Loere village and was pushed right up to the crossroads, three-quarters of a mile beyond, which the British had christened "Hyde Park Corner."

This thrust was exceedingly serious. It turned the French left, put in a wedge between the French and British forces on this part of the front, got right on the flank of the range of hills against which this whole German attack was aimed, and almost succeeded in penetrating the plain beyond and thus threatening an exceedingly hasty and expensive retreat of the British forces to the northeast in the Ypres salient.

French Recover

More Than They Lost

The whole of this first rush and the critical situation which it caused occupied no more than the earliest hours of the day. Long before noon the French had organized a counter attack which was singularly successful. It not only retook the crossroads, but got back the whole of the village of Loere, and finally pushed on beyond, driving the enemy to points actually within those from which he first started. It was a clear-cut success in a "war of movement," the action taking place in the open, like that of the old battles of the Marne.

Meanwhile the smaller and less important enemy thrusts to the east at Voormezele had been held, and the remainder of the day—all that afternoon up to dusk—was taken up with innumerable local concentrations of troops on the part of the enemy; sometimes broken before they could attack; sometimes broken in the course of the attack; but all destroyed before they could have any effect upon the now restored defensive line.

**Afternoon's Fighting
Costs Germans Dearly**

It was this afternoon of fighting that was so exceptionally costly to the Germans, and from the nature of the situation and the fact that the attacks nowhere got home it was correspondingly less expensive to the Allies.

Certain details of it which have now reached London explain the character of the fighting and its results. For instance, one regiment, firing across the open glacié of fields stretching down to the Kemmel Brook, had opposite them all the afternoon portions of the 3d Guard division. These forces had to assemble as best they could in the ruined huts on the opposite rise beyond the brook, which rise was formed by the first slopes of Mount Kemmel.

After making their assemblies in these huts, with very great loss of life in passing across the open ground to reach them, the Prussian Guard had to attempt an advance again across the open to the brook. Every such effort failed with murderous loss. The mist of the morning had long disappeared and a light wind had, happily for the British, begun to clear away the gas. During all its bloody efforts that afternoon the Prussian Guard never so much as crossed the Kemmel Brook, but it was perpetually exposed to both machine gun and rifle fire from the British regiment until dark.

Much the same thing was happening on every other section of this ten-mile line during this latter part of the day, and when the light declined the whole offensive effort had failed.

Several features are worthy of remark in this action. It is the first

time this year that the enemy has resorted once more to his earlier expensive tactics of attacking in dense masses, which he was thought to have abandoned. He did this probably under the desire of achieving a rapid result by main force.

In the next place the numbers engaged were larger than have been employed in any local action for many weeks; in fact, the German concentration was the largest since the main offensive, in March.

Again, for almost the first time, the enemy copied the British innovation in air attack by the use of low flying machines, which fired at men on the ground.

**German Boys
Appear at Front**

One important piece of news which appeared during the week is the official statement in the official French communication that certain boys in elements of troops made up from the German class of 1920 have now been identified in field depots immediately behind the front. These boys have not yet taken any part in the battle, nor have any prisoners been taken from among them. But advance parties of them, who have presumably shown greater aptitude than the rest in the eight weeks or so of training which they have had so far, have evidently been sent in to be recruited into the battered divisions which have taken part in the recent offensive. Apparently they will be used immediately and some months before they would normally have come up were it not for the very high losses which the enemy has suffered in the course of his recent attacks.

What those losses are it is quite impossible to determine with even the roughest approach to accuracy. But of the two extremes advanced—half a million on one side and three hundred and fifty thousand on the other—it is safe to say the latter is within the mark. The equivalent of 182 divisions have been identified in action on the West front since March 21, and at least 136 and possibly 140 of the 180 divisions available for action have already been used, the balance between these figures and the 182 divisions identified being made up of divisions which have been used twice or even three times.

Now, although divisions will not be kept in line for an offensive action up to any such limits of loss as will the defensive units before being retired, it is hardly credible that this mass of nearly a million and a half infantry alone, without counting artillery or other troops, can have suffered so little as 22 or 23 per cent of its forces during so long and intense series of actions.

The units of which we have detail information have, of course, suffered very much more heavily than the average. We have, for instance, the case of the 4th Ersatz Division, which was virtually wiped out at Givenchy. We have the 13th Reserve Division, which was thrown against the French and pounded into nearly the same case. We have the 1st Guards Reserve Division losing something like a third of its officers in one day's action. We have from twenty to thirty detailed, examined and corrected cases of this kind, and we have further to guide us the experience of the Allies themselves when they have attempted a continued intense offensive action.

From all these things it becomes certain that the German losses can certainly not be less than the 350,000 figure given above and are probably considerably higher.

**Free Tickets Home
For Soldiers Urged**

WASHINGTON, May 11.—A bill to grant furloughs to enlisted men for the purpose of visiting their homes and to authorize the Director General of Railroads to furnish them with free transportation was introduced to-day by Representative McAdoo of New York. It applies only to men stationed within the United States and limits furloughs to one each year.

CHICAGO, May 11.—Railway fare of 1 cent a mile, including war tax, may be granted to enlisted soldiers and sailors by Director General McAdoo within a short time, according to William E. Golden, an attorney, who returned to-day from Washington, after conference with the Director General. The reduced rate, Golden declared, will enable soldiers and sailors to visit their homes more frequently. Many of them, owing to their small pay, and the great distances they have to travel, find this difficult.

Mr. Golden filed a petition with Director General McAdoo bearing names of 60,000 Chicagoans asking for the reduced rate.

Allies Gain in Balkans

LONDON, May 11.—Allied successes in the Balkans were reported by the German War Office to-night.

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**Burian Still Hopes
For General Peace**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—The hope that general peace negotiations will follow the Rumanian peace was expressed by the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, Count Burian, in replying to an address presented by municipal officials at Budapest, according to a dispatch from that city to the "Frankfurter Zeitung."

"Our King hitherto has seized every possibility of peace," said Baron Burian. "He is determined emphatically to seek every opportunity to conclude, if possible, an honorable and lasting peace with our enemies. We are now on the lookout for peace, without wishing to bind ourselves by definite and restrictive formulas. Our determined perseverance has brought us thus far. With the sword in one hand and the olive branch in the other, we shall hold on."

The Foreign Minister said he would do his utmost to contribute to the attainment of this end.

**Peace Overtures to Heron
Unauthorized, Berlin Says**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—The German professor who was recently reported by the Swiss correspondent of "The London Daily Mail" to have approached Professor Heron, an American living in Geneva, with peace offers which he attempted to have sent to President Wilson, had not been officially deputed to make such offers, the semi-official "North German Gazette" of Berlin, declares.

The Berlin authority says it is authorized to announce that Professor Quide, of Munich, who was reported to have made the offers, was without any commission whatever from Chancellor Hertling or the German Foreign Office.

**Crisis in Austria
Grows in Gravity**

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Postponement of the opening of the Austrian Parliament until May 18 is merely an expedient of President of the Council von Seydlitz, says a diplomatic dispatch from Zurich to-day, in commenting on the gravity of the Austrian political situation.

The action, continues the dispatch, in no way modifies the threatening character of affairs, for "it appears urgent that the chamber should resume its labors, the budget must be voted and the food situation is so difficult that deputies must be present to meet exigencies by making concessions district by district. Finally the financial situation is full of danger, as the issue of paper money has been made in such proportions that cries of alarm are heard on every side."

The Czech and the Jugo-Slavs have combined, the dispatch says, and are following a distinct separatist policy.

**Expects New Premier
In Austria Before
Parliament Opens**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—Announcing that Emperor Charles of Austria had accepted the resignation of Dr. von Zeiger, a Slovene minister, the correspondent at Vienna of the "Vossische Zeitung" of Berlin, says the resignation undoubtedly was connected with measures which Premier von Seydlitz declared would be taken against the South Slav agitation. The correspondent adds that a new Austrian government, or at least a new Premier, will face Parliament when it reassembles next month.

**Cavalry Sent
By Kaiser to
Curb Ukraine**

Continued from page 1

army that was to cooperate with the troops of the Central Powers.

**Germans Seek Out and Jail
Well-Known Ukrainians**

(By The Associated Press)

MOSCOW, Wednesday, May 8.—The Germans are continuing to make arrests in Ukraine. A rigid censorship has been established by them at Kiev, but it has been leaked that they have searched the residence of Professor Grouchevsky, president of the Kiev Central Rada. They did not succeed in apprehending him, as he had escaped from the city. They attempted to arrest Commissioner Salikovsky, who also escaped.

A member of the Rada named Petoura was arrested, but his name was released, protests having been made by several local organizations.

**German Troops Invade
Ukrainian Rada and
Arrest 4 Ministers**

WASHINGTON, May 11.—Further details of the situation in Ukraine reached the State Department to-day in diplomatic dispatches. An official Ukrainian report on the recent interference by German military authorities with the Rada said:

"Yesterday at 4 o'clock in the afternoon the building in which the Central Rada sits was surrounded by men in the uniform of German officers and soldiers, and members of the Central Rada as well as members of the government who had assembled for the session of the Rada were searched and arrested."

If you are looking for a summer home read the unusual offerings in the REAL ESTATE columns of to-day's Sunday Tribune—Adv.

Wilhelmstrasse Lays Plans to Discredit Rumanian Queen

**Press Apparently Inspired to Talk Abdication—Unhappy
Ruler Declares, With U. S. Aid, She Will Fight On—
Present Moves Similar to Ukraine Maneuvers**

LONDON, May 11.—The signing of the treaty of peace between Germany and Rumania will be by no means the last act in the Rumanian tragedy, according to the view current here. The announcement by German newspapers that Queen Marie would rather abdicate than reign over the country under the German peace conditions is held to be a case of the wish probably being father to the thought. The Queen was largely instrumental in bringing Rumania into the war on the side of the Allies and she has fought stubbornly for many months to avert peace. Even now that peace has been signed, it is predicted she will continue to be a formidable obstacle in the path of the German plans for "penetration."

In a talk with The Associated Press correspondent at Jassy the day before his departure from that city, Queen Marie said:

"I shall never become reconciled to a humiliating peace with Germany—never! And I hope, indeed I know, that I shall have the support of Americans as well as Rumanians in continuing the fight against the invader. The war is a critical one for Rumania, but we know we are right and our courage is undaunted. We have been through critical times before. We have borne great hardships and undergone great sufferings. Greater hardships and sufferings are perhaps in store, but I continue to hope. It is only a woman's hope, but I cannot abandon it."

Will Not Quit Unless Forced

The Wilhelmstrasse is probably considering ways and means for ridding Rumania of the Queen's influence. As a preparatory step, the German newspapers apparently have been instructed to speak of her as planning abdication. It seems safe to predict that she will never abdicate unless forced to do so, as she is known to be imbued with a deep sense of responsibility to the Rumanian people, whom she, by every indication, deeply and sincerely loves.

It seems probable that the only reason why Germany has not already insisted upon the abdication of the Queen is that King Ferdinand is a member of the Hohenzollern family and therefore is still regarded with a degree of consideration by the German people, whom she, by every indication, deeply and sincerely loves. The Queen are deposed, it would naturally follow that exile also would be imposed upon Crown Prince Charles, who is in closest sympathy with his mother in her bitter hatred for all things German. The likeliest candidates for the throne in such a contingency are young Prince Nikolai, who is a mere schoolboy, and King Ferdinand's brother, William, who is a general in the German army. The affairs of state will probably be entrusted to Peter Carp as Premier. Mr. Carp, who is more than eighty years old, held the Premiership for a time in the ante-bellum days and was considered one of the ablest diplomats in Rumania. He has been strongly pro-German throughout the war, although two of his sons lost their lives in the Rumanian army at the hands of the Germans.

**Rumanian National Debt
Estimated \$2,000,000,000**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—A Conservative newspaper, which has been directed at Bucharest since the conclusion of peace, says the Rumanian national debt amounts to 10,000,000,000 lei (nearly equal to \$2,000,000,000). This does not take into account destroyed material. Direct taxes will be increased, an income tax will be imposed and a complete system of financial laws enacted to meet the requirements of the treasury.

**Rumania, Forced to Renounce Indemnities,
Must Pay All Damages Suffered by Teutons**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—Under a supplementary legal, political treaty between Rumania and Germany, the former country must indemnify German consular officials for all damage suffered by them during the war or done to consular buildings. Rumania renounces indemnification for damage caused in Rumania as a result of German military measures, including all requisitions and contributions.

Rumania will grant amnesty to her subjects for their political conduct or military conduct, based on political grounds, during the war. Another clause provides that various riches shall be accorded German churches and schools in Rumania.

Clause 11 says "Rumania, after having obtained the consent of the Rumanian National Bank, agrees that balances and deposits of the national bank now in the German Reichsbank shall remain in the Reichsbank's charge for five years, and if Rumania falls behind in her instalments for ten years, as security for Rumania's public debt and service as regards German subjects, and may also, if necessary, be drawn upon to pay interest and redeem Rumanian bonds."

Those present were ordered to hold up their hands, and their treatment was rough and discourteous.

"The protest of the president of the Central Rada against the arrest of members in the Parliament Building was disregarded. More than this, force was used against President Hruschewsky during the search. All private papers and documents of the Central Rada were taken away and the search lasted three and a half hours. Without any warrants of any sort being shown, the following ministers were arrested: Minister of the Interior Tkatschenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs Lubinsky, Minister of War Schukisky, and Director of the Political Administrative Department Kajevsky."

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Kaiser Plans Military Rule Of All Russia

**Bolshevik Council Meets to
Consider Ultimatum
From Berlin**

**Talk of Moving
The Capital Again**

**Industries at Standstill,
Though Lenin Is Gradually
Restoring Order**

LONDON, May 11.—Russia has been suddenly faced with events that may again change the political outlook, the Petrograd correspondent of "The Daily Express" telegraphs. Germany, he says, has apparently found that economic dominion over Russian territory is insufficient and is seeking military occupation.

An extra session of the Bolshevik government council has been held in Petrograd to discuss the situation created by the ultimatum recently delivered by the German Ambassador, Count von Mirbach, which embodied demands of a character apparently calculated to turn Russia virtually into a German colony. Premier Lenin's speech at this meeting was extremely pessimistic, the correspondent reports.

Consider Changing Capital

According to the newspaper "Podnina" the question of transferring the capital to Nijni-Novgorod was broached, as was the subject of immediate military measures for the defence of Moscow against possible aerial attacks.

A dispatch to "The Times" from Stockholm says the Finnish government has summoned Mr. von Enkel, Finnish Minister at Petrograd, to return to Helsinki for the purpose, it is stated, of discussing the suggested annexation of Russian Karelia by Finland.

Mr. von Enkel is quoted by the correspondent as reporting the situation in Petrograd still precarious, owing to the scarcity and dearth of food. The Lenin government, however, is gaining in stability and power, he says, making an effort to reorganize the army. The number of unemployed is very great and industry is completely at a standstill.

Ground Left Uncultivated

The peasantry, who are the principal supporters of the Bolshevik government, the minister added, are still looking to that government for a free distribution of land, most of which in the meantime has been left uncultivated.

M. Boichiller, a French economist, who has arrived at Stockholm on his way to France from Russia, confirms the statements of the minister regarding the labor situation, the correspondent adds. Bolshevism, the French traveller declares, has destroyed industrialism and disintegrated labor throughout Russia. Labor, he reports, is now gradually ranging itself against the Bolsheviks, the better elements among it becoming reactionary.

**Veteran General Slain
By Bolsheviks, Is Report**

COPENHAGEN, May 11.—General Rennenkampf, a Russian commander in the Japanese and present wars, has been murdered by the Bolsheviks at Taganrog, Southern Russia, according to the Vienna correspondent of the "Lokal Anzeiger" of Berlin.

In the Japanese war General Rennenkampf commanded a Cossack cavalry division. Later he made an enviable record as Governor General of Trans-Bakalia. In 1914 General Rennenkampf gained successes against the Germans in Poland and East Prussia, only to be defeated by Field Marshal von Hindenburg. In 1915 he was placed on the retired list, and in June, 1917, was arrested by the provisional government for offences against the government and interned in the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul.

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**Guatemala Will Respect
German Rights, Berlin Hears**

AMSTERDAM, May 11.—Commenting on the declaration of war by Guatemala, the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung" says, according to a telegram to Berlin, it was declared in government circles in Guatemala that the breaking off of relations would have no effect on the treatment of Germans settled there, and that no change would occur in this respect, even if it came to the worst. It is expected that this conception still prevails in authoritative circles in Guatemala.



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